

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing real-time communication over a global network in a session between two or more users, each of said two or more users using a device communicatively coupled to the global network, said system comprising:

a client messaging application which runs on each of said a plurality of user devices, at least two of said user devices including a user device screen, said client messaging application providing a user interface displayed on each of said user device screens, said user interface comprising:

a message entry window for a user to enter data;

a communication window for displaying messages entered in said session; and

a selection window for accessing one or more application agents, each of said one or more application agents being associated to an external application;

a connection to said external application, said external application capable of providing an enriched communication session beyond simple, replicated text message content;

wherein when any one of said one or more application agents is activated, said external application represented by said one or more activated application agents is displayed activated on said user device screens to run in conjunction with said client messaging application such that said two or more users in said session can ~~instantly use~~ utilize said external application represented by said activated application agent without leaving said session.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said external application is either a local application in any of said user devices or a ~~third-party~~ service on the global network.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 2, wherein said ~~third-party~~ service on the global network is any of:

- an instant translation service;
- a speech synthesis service;
- an automatic publishing service;
- a picture sharing service;
- a map sharing service;
- a quote service; and
- a Web search engine.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein said activated application agent addresses said external applications on an other side of said session via a message protocol.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 4, wherein data transferred via said message protocol for addressing said external applications on said other side of said session is a sequence of characters that represents binary data.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein said selection window for accessing one or more application agents further comprises:

- one or more distinct visual cues, each of which being representative of one of said application agents; and

said one or more distinct visual cues shown in association with a contact in a contact list of a user, said association based on said user's prior use of said application agents with said contact.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 6, wherein whenever said contact joins said session, said application agents represented by said one or more distinct visual cues associated with said contact are automatically activated.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 6, wherein any of said application agents can be registered as a contact in said contact list of said user to create registered application agents.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 8, wherein at least one of said registered application agents is associated to an interactive service.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 9, wherein one or more of said registered application agents can be run in conjunction with said interactive service associated with said at least one registered application agent.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein said selection window displays any of:

a list of unregistered application agents, each of said unregistered application agents being available to be registered with said client messaging application; and

a list of registered application agents, each of said registered application agents being immediately available to be activated by a user.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein said user can register said unregistered application agent by dragging a symbol representative of said unregistered application agent from said list of unregistered application agents to said list of registered application agents.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 13, wherein said symbol is an icon or a title.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein said user can unregister a registered application agent by dragging a symbol representative of said registered application agent from said list of registered application agents to said list of unregistered application agents.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein said user can register an unregistered application agent by applying one or more mouse-clicking commands.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein said user can activate a registered application agent by dragging a symbol representative of said registered application agent from said selection window to said communication window.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein said symbol is an icon or a title.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein said user can activate a registered application agent by applying one or more mouse-clicking commands.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein said user can activate a registered application agent from a local application.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 13, further comprising:

means for associating an alias of said symbol to a contact in said user's contact list, said association based on said user's prior use with said contact, of said application agent represented by said symbol.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein said list of unregistered application agents is automatically updated by said client messaging application.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, further comprising:

wherein a user invites another user to activate one of said application agents in said session.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said user interface further comprises:

a symbol for selection by a user to initiate synchronous sharing of a ~~third~~ party service represented by an activated application agent.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for incorporating external resources into an instant messaging session supported by an instant messaging system, said instant messaging system comprising a client messaging application which runs on devices communicatively coupled to the Internet, comprising the steps of:

~~said client messaging application~~ providing through said client messaging application a user interface displayed on each device's screen from which a user communicates with another users, said user interface comprising a message entry window for said user to enter data, a communication window for displaying messages entered in said instant messaging session, and a selection window for accessing one or more application agents, each of said application agents being associated to an external application, the method further comprising the steps of:

activating an registered application agent from a list of registered available application agents, wherein each of said registered application agents is instantly available to be activated by said user, thereby activating the external application to which said activated application agent is associated, said external application capable of providing an enriched communication session beyond simple, replicated text message content; and

sharing said external application ~~to which said activated application agent is associated with~~ between at least two other users in said instant messaging session.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 25, wherein said external application is either a local application in any of said devices communicatively coupled to the Internet or a third party service on the Internet.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 26, wherein said ~~third-party~~ service on the Internet is any of:

- an instant translation service;
- a speech synthesis service;
- an automatic publishing service;
- a picture sharing service;
- a map sharing service;
- a quote service; and
- a Web search engine.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein at least one of said registered application agents is associated to an interactive service.

29. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

registering an unregistered application agent by dragging a symbol representative of said unregistered application agent from a list of unregistered application agents to said list of registered application agents, wherein each of said unregistered application agents is available to be registered with said client messaging application; and

unregistering a registered application agent by dragging a symbol representative of said registered application agent from said list of registered application agents to said list of unregistered application agents.

30. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 25 further comprising the steps of:

registering an unregistered application agent by applying a number of mouse-clicking commands; and

unregistering a registered application agent by applying a number of mouse-clicking commands.

31. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of:

associating one or more visual cues to a contact in a contact list of a user, each of said one or more visual cues representing one of said registered application agents, said association based on said user's prior use or use frequency, with said contact, of said registered application agents.

32. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 31, further comprising the step of:

automatically activating said registered application agents represented by said associated visual cues whenever said contact joins said instant messaging session.

33. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 31, wherein said contact can be any of:

a screen name representing a human contact;

a name or a visual cue representing an interactive service; and

a name or a visual cue representing one of said registered application agents.